

Since early 1956 Communist China has faced setbacks in Tibet including revolts in eastern Tibet and passive resistance on the part of Tibetan leaders. Although receiving little publicity, the explosiveness of this situation is obvious -- particularly in view of the current stresses the Peking regime is undergoing. The Communists' difficulties *arise in part from* in Tibet mostly reflect the unique physical and cultural geography of Tibet. This paper will describe Tibet's geographical setting -- using the term in its fullest sense -- and the influence of that setting on past, present, and possible future developments.

(DEG)

*if political aspects are in agreement with OCI and State conclusions as published.*

~~SECRET~~